

show their respect for his memory by adjourning to-day without transacting any business.
Adjourned till to-morrow, 11 o'clock.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
He has passed Divine Providence. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS is no more. At the advanced age of more than four years, he was suddenly stricken from his seat in the House of Representatives by the hand of disease on the 21st, and expired in the Capitol a few minutes after seven o'clock on the evening of the 23d of February, 1848.

He had for more than half a century filled the most important public stations, and among them that of President of the United States. The two Houses of Congress, of one of which he was a venerable and most distinguished member, will doubtless prescribe appropriate ceremonies to be observed as a mark of respect for the memory of this eminent citizen.

The nation mourns his loss; and, as a further testimony of respect for his memory, I direct that all the Executive offices at Washington be placed in mourning, and that all business be suspended during this day and to-morrow.

JAMES K. POLK.
Washington, February 24, 1848.

BY THE SENATE.
The President of the United States, with deep regret, announces to the Senate the death of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, our eminent and venerated fellow citizen.

While occupying his seat as a member of the House of Representatives on the 21st instant, he was suddenly prostrated by disease, and on the 23d expired, without having been removed from the Capitol. He had filled many honorable and responsible stations in the service of his country, and among them that of President of the United States; and he closed his long and eventful life in the actual discharge of his duties as one of the Representatives of the People.

From sympathy with his relatives and the American People for his loss, and from respect for his distinguished services, the Senate orders that funeral honors shall be paid to his memory at each of the military stations.

The Adjutant General will cause the necessary orders for carrying into effect the foregoing orders.

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

War Department, February 24, 1848.

On the day succeeding the arrival of this "General Order" at each military post, the troops will be paraded at 10 o'clock A. M., and the order read; then, after which, all labors for the day will cease.

The national flag will be displayed at half-staff.

At dawn of day, thirteen guns will be fired; and afterwards, at intervals of thirty minutes, between the rising and setting sun, a single gun; and, at the close of the day, a national salute of twenty-nine guns.

The officers of the army will wear crepe on their left arm and on their swords, and the colors of the several regiments will be put in mourning, for the period of six months.

By order:
R. JONES, Adj. Gen.

BY THE CITIZENS.
At the Meeting of the Citizens of Washington held at the City Hall on the 24th instant, W. W. Seaton, the Mayor, was called to the chair, and John P. Callan was appointed Secretary.

Messrs. Joseph H. Bradley, J. H. Crawford, P. R. Fendall, George Sweeney, John W. Maury, A. D. Bach, and John D. Barclay, were appointed a committee to prepare resolutions for the consideration of the meeting, who, after retiring, reported the following:

Resolved, That, as a tribute of respect to the memory of ex-President ADAMS, we do recommend to the citizens of Washington, during the period of his obsequies, to abstain from all secular employment, that the stores and other places of public business and amusements be closed.

Resolved, That, the citizens of Washington, will meet at the City Hall on Saturday next, at 10 o'clock A. M., to unite in a solemn procession, and escort for his remains to the place of sepulture, and invite the military companies and other organized societies of the city, and strangers, to unite with us.

On motion, Joseph H. Bradley, Esq., was appointed Marshal-in-chief, with power to select assistants, to arrange and direct the procession.

W. W. SEATON, Chairman.
JOHN P. CALLAN, Secretary.

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 2, 1848.

POETRY.

We have been highly favored with some poetical contributions, which will soon appear; and among these is a long one from New York, which has been long mislaid.

LETTER OF THE REV. THEODORE PARKER.

We conclude this week the Letter of the Rev. Theodore Parker to the People of the United States. It speaks for itself. The mastery style in which he has treated his subject has doubtless enchaind the reader's attention. Whatever our Southern readers may think of some of his statements and asseverations, they must admire his intellectual power and unfeigned earnestness.

MOVEMENTS IN CONGRESS.

No business was transacted in the House of Representatives last week, until Monday.

By referring to our report of proceedings, it will be seen that several movements of some importance took place on that day. The first was a long preamble and resolution, introduced by Mr. Hall, showing what kind of services for slavery are paid for by the People of the United States. As usual, the slave interest was strong enough to prevent any action upon the subject.

The resolutions brought forward by Mr. Putnam, embodying the Wilcox Provision, were laid upon the table, by a vote of 102 to 92; but, some of those voting in the affirmative did so, we learn, just the passage of the resolutions in question, to raise the proceedings in relation to the Treaty. The vote is not therefore to be regarded as an exact indication of the views of the majority of the House, of the resolutions, on their merits.

The debate on the Deficiency bill was carried on amidst much confusion, and served to bring out the fact, that objectionable as General Taylor may be deemed by the Northern Whigs, their leaders will generally sustain him if nominated by the Whig Convention to matter what his views on the subject of slavery extension.

In the Senate, last Thursday, as the record shows, Mr. Baldwin's resolutions on the subject of territorial slavery, were laid upon the table. The chairmanship of this act is unquestionable. Mr. Calhoun had introduced a series of resolutions, and been allowed to discuss them. Mr. Dickinson had introduced a series of resolutions, and been allowed to discuss them. Mr. Yule, understood to express the sentiments of Mr. Calhoun, had introduced his views, affirming the South Carolina platform, and been allowed to discuss them. Two of these gentlemen are Southern men; the third is a Northern man with Southern principles.

Mr. Baldwin, representing the non-slaveholding views of the free States on the same subject, and not only is he denied the privilege of discussing them, but his resolutions are promptly and finally disposed of by laying them upon the table; Messrs. Calhoun and Dickinson, who had been allowed by courtesy to deliver their peculiar sentiments at as great length as they pleased, most courteously yielding in favor of this delicate act of courtesy? Mr. Yule, who had been allowed by the courtesy of the Senate to occupy the morning hour for three sessions, sitting in his place, afraid to vote one way or the other? And all the Whig Senators from the slave States, (Clayton, Man- gam, Berrien, Bell, Badger, and Reverdy Johnson) who had courteously allowed Northern and Southern Democrats to occupy the time of the Senate with arguments in favor of slavery-extension, most graciously refusing the privilege to a brother Whig, of setting forth the arguments against such extension?

We know not how a more glaring indignity could be offered by the Senate to the non-slaveholders of the country. Mr. Baldwin expressly disclaimed any intention or desire to discuss the resolutions at that time; he asked only that they might be laid over informally, so that they might

have an opportunity at some future time to offer his opinions on a subject on which the representatives of the free States had been fully heard, and the denial of this grace, no matter how concerned in it, was an act not worthy only of the chivalry of Pro-Slavery Propagandists.

The Treaty is now under discussion from day to day. We presume it will be ratified. If not, the day will be re-commenced, and it is not probable till Mexico shall have been subjugated. If ratified, the absorbing issue of the war will be withdrawn from politics, and the opponents of the extension of slavery will then be able to unite in all wise measures to effectuate their policy. The battle will then be fought, not on abstract resolutions, but on bills for the organization of Territorial Governments. Evasions and subterfuges will then be out of the question. Politicians must vote, and their vote will indicate their final purpose. Also for Presidential aspirants, if that day should come before the Baltimore and Philadelphia nominations.

That the Treaty will be ratified, with certain modifications, and that the uncertainty as to whether the Mexican Congress will accept them, will be used as an argument in support of the passage of the Ten Republic Bill, and other bills calculated to secure vast patronage to the President, we regard as highly probable.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

We should not have done justice to our own feelings, had we not devoted a large space of the Era to a record of the extraordinary honors paid to the memory of one of the greatest men of the age. A greater has not fallen during this century.

The brief memoir read by Mr. Holman in Congress, who has the honor to stand up for what is right; the firmness to maintain his ground against denunciation; the talent to sustain himself, though assailed by violence on one side, and howler's desecrated by cowardly skulkers on the other.

The earlier years of Mr. Adams were spent in foreign countries. For a large portion of his life, he was compelled, in the discharge of his official duties, to mingle in European society, to become familiar with the pomp and pride and intrigue of European Courts, constantly exposed to the influences and maxims of arbitrary power, and insidious questionings of the benefits of republicanism. But never did statesman cherish a more burning love for his own country and its institutions than did John Quincy Adams. His patriotism was proverbial. It was an instinct as strong as that of self-preservation, so vehement, even when the frosts of age had fallen upon him, that in every instance where he supposed the honor or rights of the Union in danger, he was the foremost in their defence. And his republicanism simplicity was as remarkable as his love of country. He was simple and unpretending in his home and habits, in his speech and manners. There was an impressive dignity about him, but it was entirely unstudied, the mere emanation of a greatness which, being a part of his identity, seemed to be unperceived by himself, and of high station, to which he had been so long accustomed, that he had ceased to think of it. No man could be more accessible, more frank, more direct and guileless in his communications; none could take more pleasure in obliging even the most humble by instructive conversation. We have known him, while laboring under the debility resulting from the first stroke of paralysis from which he suffered, putting himself to great trouble for the purpose of hunting up some reference for a person who had no more claim upon his attention than any other of his fellow-citizens; and this, too, upon a subject in which he was not particularly interested. But so habitual was his kindness, so much pleasure did he take in communicating knowledge, that he ordered his carriage, drove to the Capitol, and devoted one or two hours to searching in the several libraries of that building for the authorities desired by the inquirer.

Great men are often oracular. They deliver their opinions in private intercourse in a tone which discourages reply. They are apt, not to listen, but to talk; to monopolize, not share, the discourse. Mr. Adams never displayed this weakness. He was as prompt in attending to the remarks of those conversing with him as in uttering his own thoughts, and he never desired to engross the subject of discourse. What the words of Walter Scott might have been said of Mr. Adams: He was a good listener as well as a talker.

In one respect, Mr. Adams was alone: He was the last distinguished survivor of the heroic age of our country—the only public representative of the Soul and Mind of 1776. From the Faith that epoch he never recovered, his Spiritual was glowing in his thoughts and controlled his life. Never was so gloriously manifested as during the last fourteen years of his public career. He had won the loftiest reputation in diplomacy. He had been elected to the Chief Magistracy of the Republic, the highest honor in his gift. He retired for a little while, only to reappear on the political theatre as the representative of a constituency in Massachusetts. Some fastidious persons were shocked at this descent from the Presidential chair to a seat in a turbid Legislature. It was an unbecoming, incongruous, and creditable to an ex-President of the United States! They did not know Mr. Adams. He was not a man of formulas, a slave of conventionalisms. To serve his country was his meat and drink. It was for him to show that it is not station, but the man who determines his position. The position of a Representative may be below that of a Senator, but it is higher than the office of the Chief Magistrate. John Quincy Adams, the Representative of Plymouth district, Massachusetts, was even greater than John Quincy Adams, President of the United States.

He entered Congress in the year 1813, just before the rise of the present Anti-Slavery movement. Two years after, this movement attracted the attention of Congress, and then commenced the struggle for the free States on the same subject, and not only is he denied the privilege of discussing them, but his resolutions are promptly and finally disposed of by laying them upon the table; Messrs. Calhoun and Dickinson, who had been allowed by courtesy to deliver their peculiar sentiments at as great length as they pleased, most courteously yielding in favor of this delicate act of courtesy? Mr. Yule, who had been allowed by the courtesy of the Senate to occupy the morning hour for three sessions, sitting in his place, afraid to vote one way or the other? And all the Whig Senators from the slave States, (Clayton, Man- gam, Berrien, Bell, Badger, and Reverdy Johnson) who had courteously allowed Northern and Southern Democrats to occupy the time of the Senate with arguments in favor of slavery-extension, most graciously refusing the privilege to a brother Whig, of setting forth the arguments against such extension?

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go, Marshall, and Wise, rose to the command of the free States, and the popular Legislatures in the world, and compelled every Representative to yield him the title of "The Old Man Elusive."

And what a battle he waged for twenty-two years in behalf of the fundamental principles of civil liberty! At one time he is threatened with assassination from without; at another, he stands unmoved, sublime, while all around him a mass of unscrupulous Representatives are heaving and raging, almost ready to tear him in pieces.

Again we see him, morning after morning, standing up in his place, and in a speech of matchless ingenuity and tact, abounding in curious lore, and a unique power and eloquence, arguing the right of petition, defending the rights of woman, and opposing the aggression of Slavery, laying open the scheme of Texas annexation; baffling the efforts of the most adroit tacticians, acting in conjunction with an able Speaker, adverse to any legislative expedients to put him down, and holding the floor despite all opposition for three weeks, until the House adjourned sine die, and the subject was laid over till the next year.

On another occasion, he sits calmly in his chair, while his assailants, driven to desperation, are framing resolutions of censure against him, and the most eloquent member of the House is selected to overwhelm him by a sustained, terrible invective; but his long coming at last, he rises, self-possessed, though burning with indignation that only exalts his intellectual energies, and, first, by a keen analysis, in a strain of torturing irony, lays bare the gross absurdity and injustice of the resolutions, and then, turning upon the rack, and so piles him with sarcasm and scathing rebuke, that he is fain to escape on any terms, leaving the day to the lion-hearted speaker.

The battle was fought, the victory won. In the year 1846, the pag rate of Congress was rescinded, freedom of debate recognized; and, without any disparagement to the brave efforts of Mr. Giddings and the few who have stood with him, it must be said that, had it not been for the presence and power of John Quincy Adams, the seat in that House would not have been broken, the Despotism of Slavery would to this day have silenced all efforts to subvert it.

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